

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 4 and 13-15, rewrite claims 18, 20, and 22, and add new claims 23 and 24 as follows. The status of all claims in the application are set forth below.

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of reducing skin irritation caused by application to the skin of a cosmetic composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of octylmethoxy cinnamate with zinc oxide or hydrophobically treated zinc oxide, and a cosmetically acceptable vehicle, comprising the step of:

blending with the cosmetic composition 2-15 wt% of a glucoside selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside, and mixtures thereof ~~in a cosmetically acceptable vehicle~~.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A process ~~for~~ of reducing irritation to the skin caused by a combination of octyl methoxy cinnamate and powdered ZnO, comprising the step of:

(a) adding 2-15 wt% of glucoside selected from the group consisting of (1) polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, (2) polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside, and mixtures thereof,

of (1) and (2), to a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable vehicle and octyl methoxy cinnamate with powdered ZnO or hydrophobically treated ZnO; and

(b) applying the cosmetic composition to the skin.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The process ~~for~~ of reducing irritation to the skin caused by octyl methoxy cinnamate and powdered ZnO, of claim 20, wherein the cosmetic composition comprises a cosmetically acceptable vehicle, 1 to 15 wt% of octyl methoxycinnamate, and 1 to 40 wt% of powdered ZnO or hydrophobically treated ZnO.

Kindly add new claims 23 and 24 as follows:

23. (New) A method of reducing skin irritation caused by application to the skin of an external preparation containing octyl methoxycinnamate in the presence of ZnO, comprising the step of:

adding 2-15 wt% of (1) polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, or (2) polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside, or mixtures of (1) and (2), to the external skin preparation before its application to the skin.

24. (New) A method of reducing skin irritation caused by application to the skin of an external preparation containing octyl methoxycinnamate in the presence of zinc oxide, comprising the step of:

blending with the external preparation 2-15wt% of (1) polyethylene methyl glucoside, or (2) polyoxypropylene glucoside or mixtures of (1) and (2), to the external skin preparation containing octyl methoxycinnamate and zinc oxide.